

Noncommunicable Disease Unit

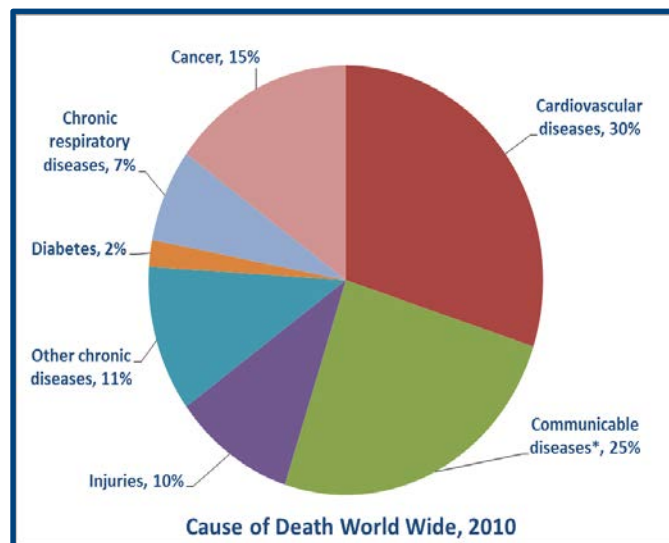
Advancing global prevention and control

The Global Burden

Today, over three-quarters of all deaths worldwide are due to non-communicable diseases (NCDs). These include deaths caused by injuries, such as motor vehicle injuries, and chronic diseases, such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases.

Important risk factors for chronic diseases include tobacco, excessive use of alcohol, an unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, and high blood pressure.

NCD deaths worldwide now exceed all communicable, maternal and perinatal nutrition-related deaths combined, and represent an emerging global health threat. Deaths due to NCDs are becoming more common in low- and middle-income countries, where the majority of NCD deaths occur and health systems are often not equipped to respond. The enormous social and economic toll of NCDs worldwide calls for an integrated strategic approach to reduce illnesses and deaths due to NCDs globally.



Mission

The CDC aims to reduce the burden of NCDs, injuries, disabilities, environmental health hazards and related deaths through science, capacity building and public health action, working in collaboration with ministries of health, the World Health Organization (WHO), and other public and private sector partners.

CDC's Commitment to Respond

Advancing a coordinated global approach – CDC's Global NCD Unit within the Center for Global Health provides a coordinated approach to reducing the global burden of NCDs. Functions include:

- Leading the agency's global prevention and control strategy through strategic planning and activity prioritization
- Coordinating planning and communication with external partners
- Providing global policy guidance
- Coordinating technical support to WHO, WHO Regional Offices and U.S. government agencies
- Leading projects in specific priority areas

Building from CDC's long-standing country programs – CDC works with countries to build capacity and introduce innovative approaches to tackle NCDs globally. This includes making available a host of online training materials on [the CDC Global NCD Website](#). By building the evidence base of effective interventions, new ideas can be quickly shared.



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Current Global NCD Projects



The Global NCD Unit currently coordinates and supports CDC's NCD activities in numerous low- and middle-income countries. The following are examples of projects currently underway:

1. Establishing an NCD curriculum for the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP)
2. Improving tobacco control
3. Enhancing road safety
4. Establishing cancer registries
5. Strengthening public health surveillance for NCDs
6. Improving hypertension control, sodium reduction and supporting a global version of the Million Hearts® program (a national initiative to prevent 1 million heart attacks and strokes by 2017)
7. Leading the implementation of the Global Standardized Hypertension Treatment Project (GSHTP), a globally applicable framework for standardizing hypertension medication treatment and including treatment protocols, medication availability and a mechanism for effective treatment delivery

Future Direction

CDC's strategic framework for prevention of NCDs (2012-2015) includes six goals:

1. Reducing the burden of specific NCDs
2. Building workforce capacity
3. Strengthening public health surveillance and health information systems for NCDs
4. Strengthening country level planning, policy-making and program management
5. Increasing knowledge and evidence
6. Increasing resources and strengthening partnerships for prevention of NCDs

Learn More

To learn more about globally-oriented NCD resources, click here for the CDC Global NCD website.